

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, and
Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, and
Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston,

We respectfully ask that you allocate \$203 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill. As you know, CSFP is a critical nutrition program that delivers U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities to primarily homebound seniors, and mothers and children. In this time of economic hardship, support for CSFP is more important than ever. It is often a program of last resort for seniors who qualify for no other form of nutrition assistance.

We are seeking full funding to maintain service at existing sites in 32 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 Indian Tribal Organizations; to expand service at these sites to meet the growing need experienced by all food assistance programs; and to finally begin service in six states (Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Utah) with approved state plans that have been waiting up to six years. We estimate the fully funded cost to be \$203 million.

In 2008, CSFP provided, on average, 475,000 food packages each month to mothers, infants, children, and low-income seniors across the nation. Last year, 93 percent of the participants were elderly individuals with an income at or below \$13,270 per year. CSFP food packages are designed to supplement needed sources of nutrients typically lacking in recipients' diets, including protein, iron, zinc, and vitamins B-6 and B-12. CSFP providers also have been very cost efficient: the typical food package has a retail value up to \$60 but costs the Federal government \$19 per participant per month.

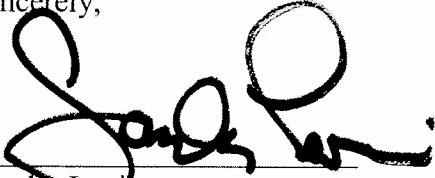
In a recent study of CSFP, the Urban Institute found that:

“CSFP has charms worth considering in designing human service programs. The administrative simplicity and familiar and comfortable atmosphere of the program are clearly attractions to a population that needs assistance but may be reluctant to seek help in settings it perceives as bureaucratic, stigmatized, or unsympathetic. The fact that the foods distributed are highly valued is clearly another [benefit].”

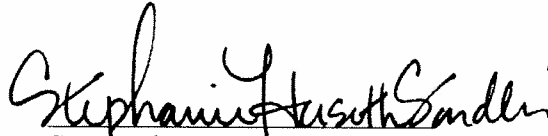
USDA/Urban Institute Study 2008

It is finally time to expand CSFP. Rising food costs and other unanticipated economic factors have prevented the intended Congressional expansion over the past three years. Since 2007, Congress has increased funding for CSFP from \$107 in FY 07 to \$160 million for FY 09, and yet the program is barely able to maintain caseload. With a new administration strongly in support of the program, we urge you to work together to allocate a substantial increase for CSFP. We appreciate your consideration of this important request and look forward to working with you to ensure no American goes hungry.

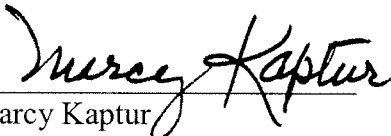
Sincerely,



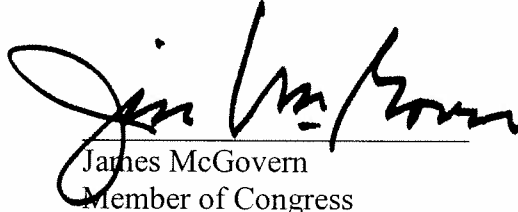
Sander Levin
Member of Congress



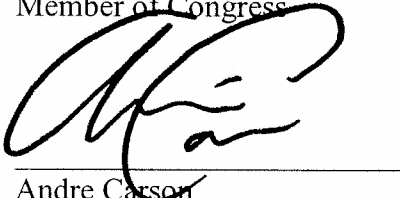
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress



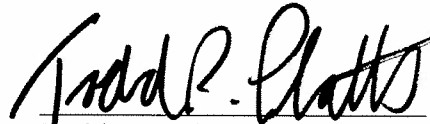
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



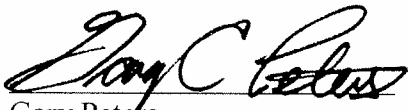
James McGovern
Member of Congress



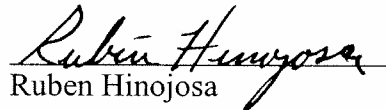
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress



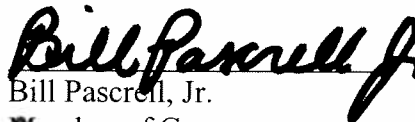
Gary Peters
Member of Congress



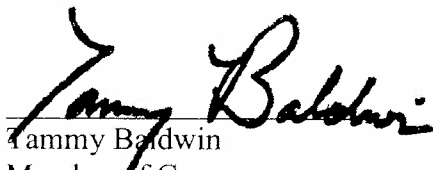
Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress



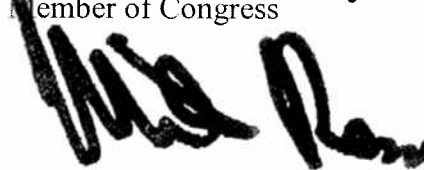
Ellen Tauscher
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

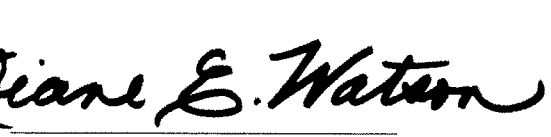


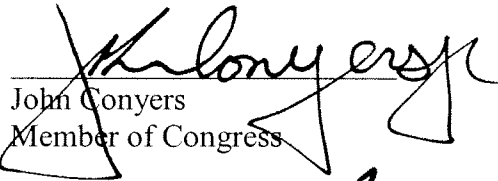
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

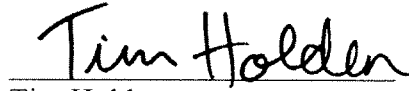


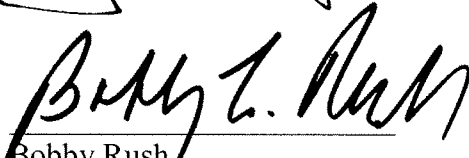
Mike Ross
Member of Congress

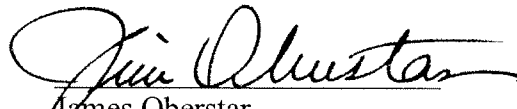

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

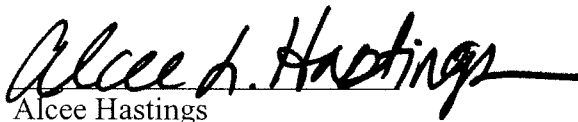

Diane Watson
Member of Congress

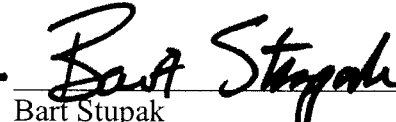

John Conyers
Member of Congress

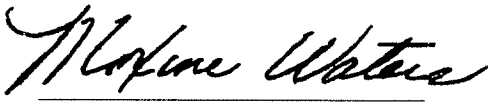

Tim Holden
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



James Oberstar
Member of Congress

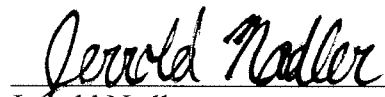

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



Bart Stupak
Member of Congress

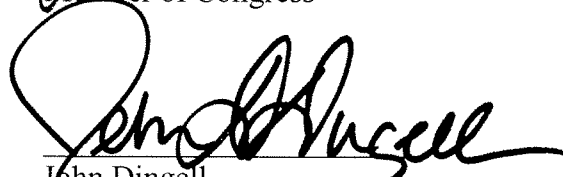

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress


David Wu
Member of Congress

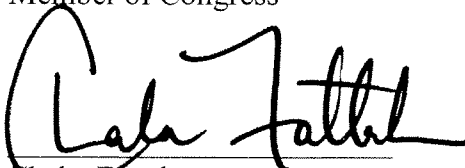

Gene Green
Member of Congress

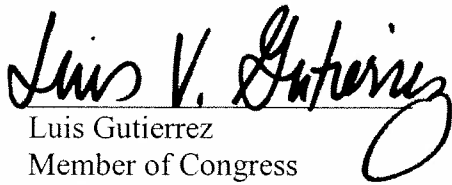

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

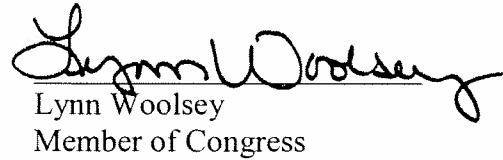

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

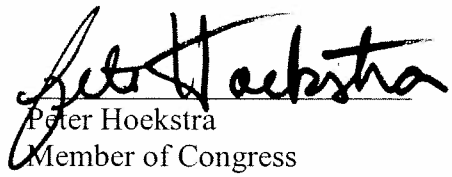

John Dingell
Member of Congress

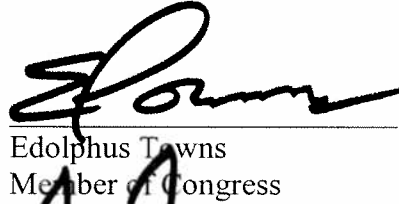

Bart Gordon
Member of Congress

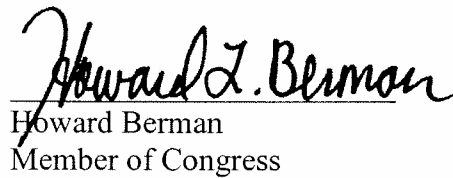

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

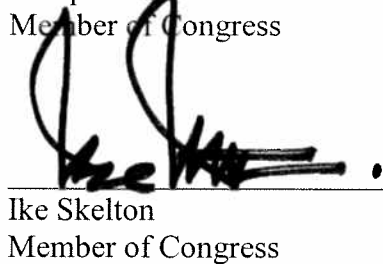

Luis Gutierrez
Member of Congress

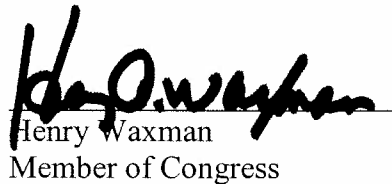

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

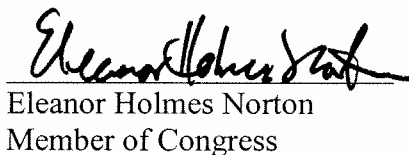

Peter Hoekstra
Member of Congress

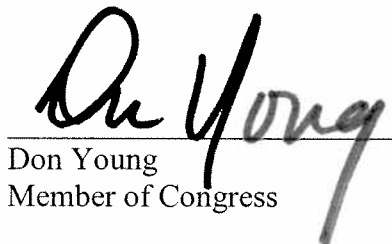

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

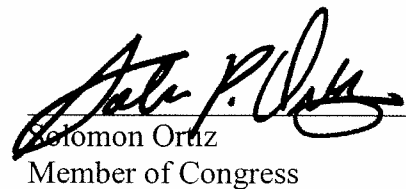

Howard Berman
Member of Congress

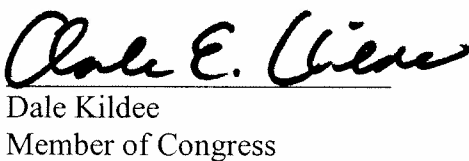

Ike Skelton
Member of Congress


Henry Waxman
Member of Congress

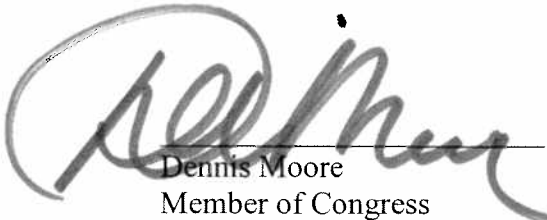

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

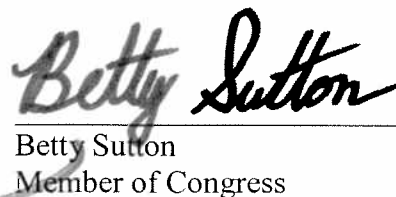

Don Young
Member of Congress

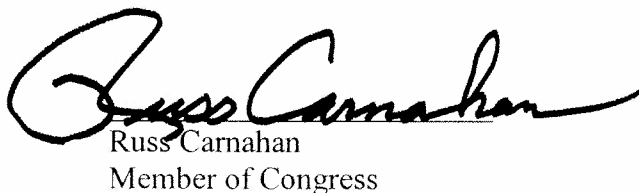

Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress

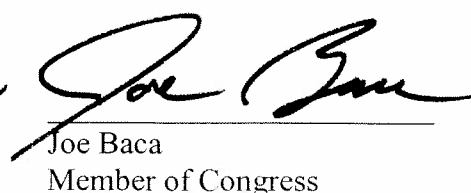

Dale Kildee
Member of Congress

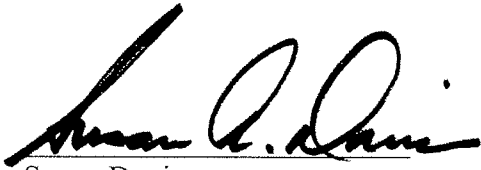

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress


Dennis Moore
Member of Congress

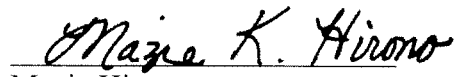

Betty Sutton
Member of Congress


Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress

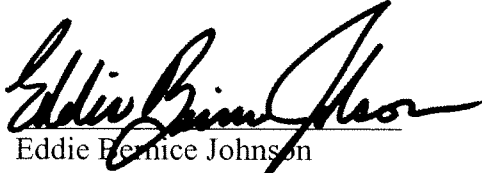

Joe Baca
Member of Congress



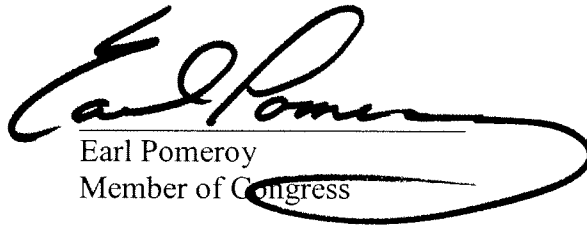
Susan Davis
Member of Congress



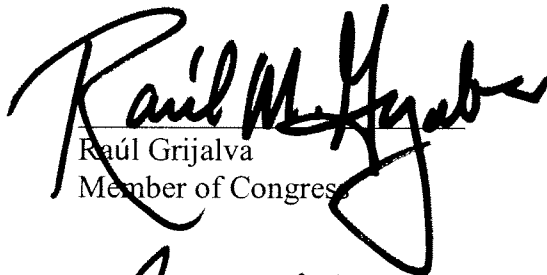
Mazie Hirono
Member of Congress



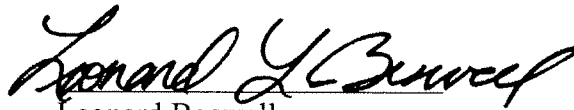
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



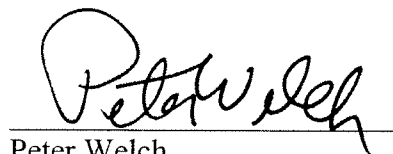
Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress



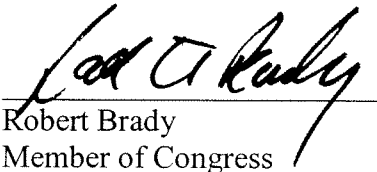
Jason Altmire
Member of Congress



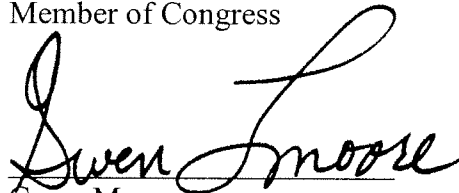
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



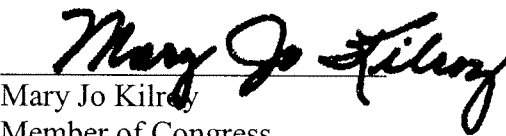
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



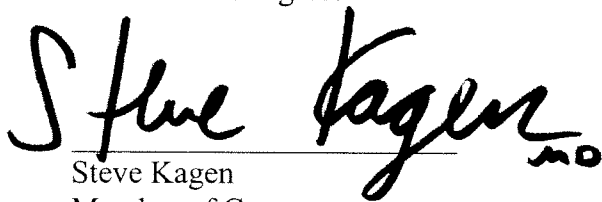
Robert Brady
Member of Congress



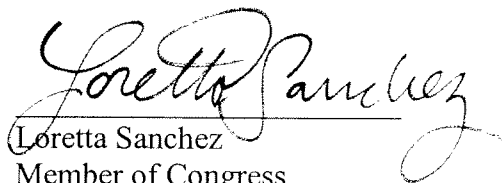
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



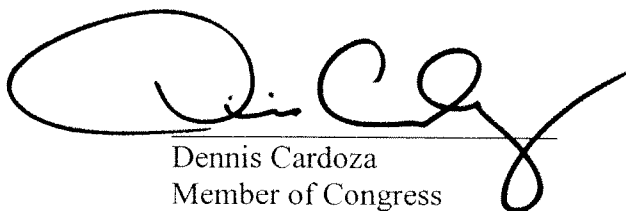
Mary Jo Kilroy
Member of Congress



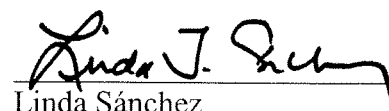
Steve Kagen
Member of Congress



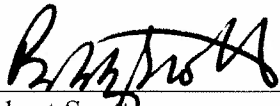
Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress



Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress



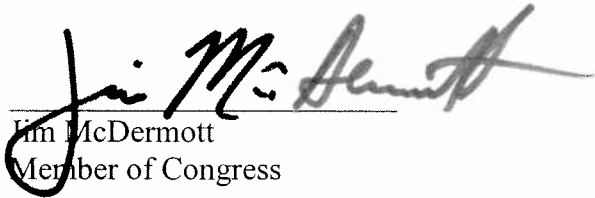
Robert Scott
Member of Congress



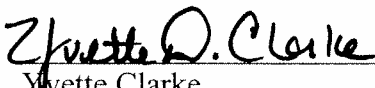
Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress



Phil Hare
Member of Congress



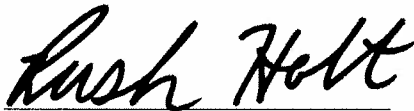
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



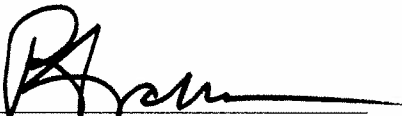
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



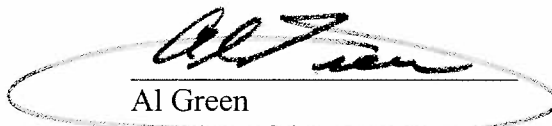
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Kathy Dahlkemper
Member of Congress



Paul Hodes
Member of Congress



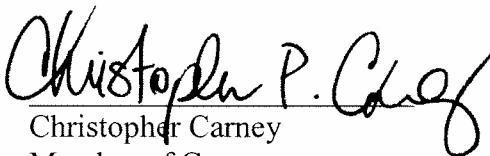
Al Green
Member of Congress



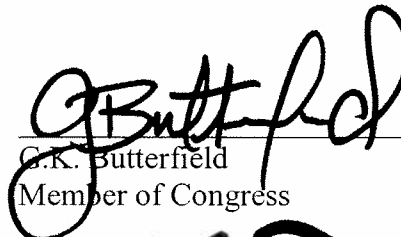
Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress



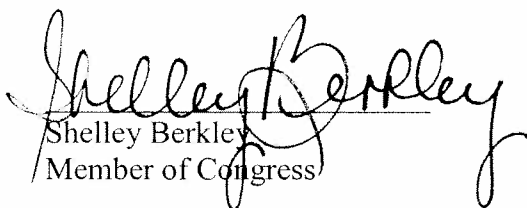
David Scott
Member of Congress



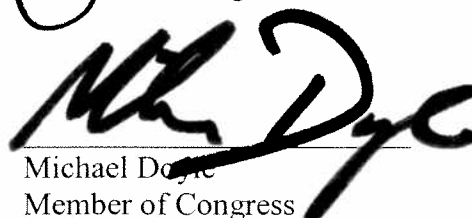
Christopher Carney
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



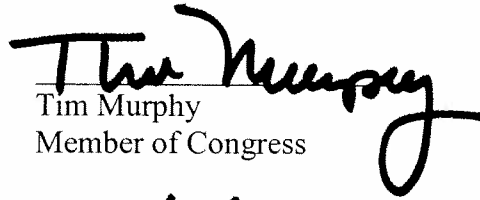
Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



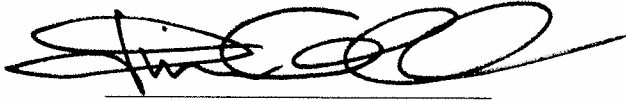
Michael Doyle
Member of Congress



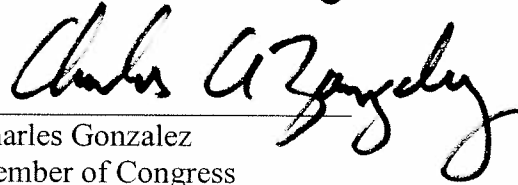
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



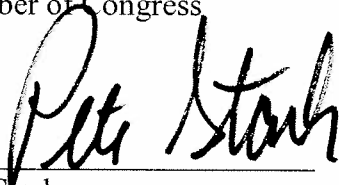
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



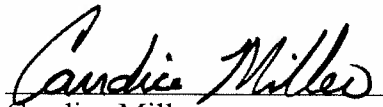
Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



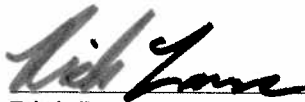
Charles Gonzalez
Member of Congress



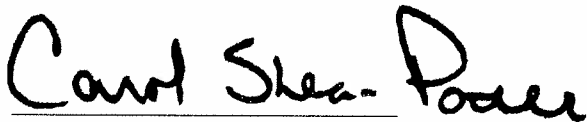
Pete Stark
Member of Congress



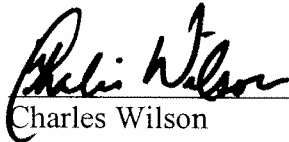
Candice Miller
Member of Congress



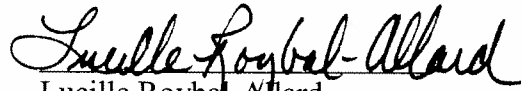
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



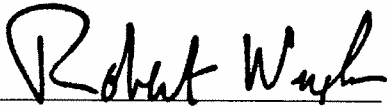
Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



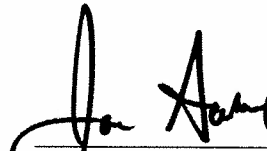
Charles Wilson
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



Joe Sestak
Member of Congress